

Remarks to Michigan Legislators
Equity and Fairness in Public Transportation
Lansing, Michigan
February 7-8, 2012

Hi, my name is Sarah Carmany. I'm from the RICC of Kalamazoo. I'm here to talk about our public transportation system and funding for it.

I, like so many other people, rely on the bus because I don't drive. I rely heavily on the bus. Without the bus, going to my job, to stores, and to appointments would not be possible. Let's say I had a doctor's appointment and there were no buses. I would call people who I know for a ride. Most often they would not be available to pick me up. What would I do? If this happens to other people, what would they do? What? They might lose jobs, because they don't have a way to get to work. That is why public transportation is so important. Because without public

transportation there's no access to jobs for many of us. Access to medical care and grocery stores is limited also.

Without jobs, people don't spend money and the economy is affected. What happens to us average people is going to affect the rich, the middle class, and the poor. You must understand this!

Another thing I want to mention is the fact that more and more people are riding the bus, more now than did before. There are times that the buses are so over crowded that people in wheelchairs have to wait until the bus comes around again. Then there are times that the bus is so over crowded that the driver gets permission to proceed downtown without stopping to pick up anyone else.

What we as a community want our elected representatives to do in Washington and our elected legislators to do here in Michigan is to provide more options in transportation planning

such as volunteer drivers, voucher programs, and mobility management . Make public transit funding a priority in Michigan. Focus on transportation as both an economic asset and a civil rights issue. You can also spread the money more evenly so transit agencies and authorities are not competing for funds and the formula that you develop treats transit systems and communities fairly.

Public transportation needs to be a priority. Please make sure to fund it well. Please make sure that transit planning includes **everyone** in the community, including people with disabilities.

Thank you.

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Keep Public Transportation Funding As Is

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65 out of 500

Petitioning

1. The U.S. House of Representatives [\(+ 14 others\)](#)

Petitioning

[close](#)

- The U.S. House of Representatives
- Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)
- Rep. Justin Amash (MI-03)
- Rep. Paul Ryan (WI-01)
- Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ-05)
- Rep. Mike Simpson (ID-02)
- Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-44)
- Rep. Tom Cole (OK-04)
- Rep. Diane Black (TN-06)
- Rep. Rob Woodall (GA-07)

- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (MD-08)
- Rep. Nick Rahall (WV-03)
- Rep. John Mica (FL-07)
- Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)
- The United States House of Representatives

2.

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[Sarah Carmany](#)

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Why This Is Important

The United States House of Representatives has proposed **cutting funding for Public Transportation by one third as of March 2012**. The proposed decreased in funding by The United States House of Representatives will cripple the Public Transportation Systems used by many across the United States. These systems are typically used by persons with disabilities and low income as transportation for employment, education, shopping and medical appointments.

If the proposed cutbacks are put in place **people who use public transportation throughout the nation will face overcrowding due to less routes, increased fairs, and less hours of service** causing a significant detrimental impact on people's lives.

Possible long term impacts due to the proposed budget include:

620,000 Public Transit Employees will loose their jobs nation wide.

Many will loose jobs as their only source of transportation will not be able to get them to or from work **further increasing the unemployment rate and dependency on government aid**.

Many with disabilities that rely on Public Transit as their only means of transportation will loose much of the independence they have in the community.

The economy will be significantly harmed due to significant job losses and more difficulty in getting to stores, restaurants, and other places of business.

We ask that the United States House of Representatives keep the funding for Public Transportation in place as is. We feel that cutting back on Public Transportation will actually cost tax payers more in the long run due to increased unemployment, less ability to access businesses and make it more difficult for those already unemployed to find a job.

- Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)
- The United States House of Representatives

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Keep Public Transportation Funding As Is

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: The United States House of Representatives.

Keep Public Transportation Funding As Is

Petition To Continue Funding For

Public Transportation System

The United States House of Representatives has proposed cutting funding for Public Transportation by one third as of March 2012. The proposed decreased in funding by The United States House of Representatives will cripple the Public Transportation Systems used by many across the United States. These systems are typically used by persons with disabilities and low income as transportation for employment, education, shopping and medical appointments.

If the proposed cutbacks are put in place people who frequent public transportation throughout the nation will face overcrowding due to less routes, increased fares, and less hours of service causing a significant detrimental impact on people's lives. Possible long term impacts due to the proposed budget include:

1. 620,000 Public Transit Employees will loose their jobs nation wide.
2. Many will loose jobs as their only source of transportation will not be able to get them to or from work further increasing the unemployment rate and dependency on government aid.
3. Many with disabilities that rely on Public Transit as their only means of transportation will loose much of the independence they have in the community.
4. The economy will be significantly harmed due to significant job losses and more difficulty in getting to stores, restaurants, and other places of business.

We ask that the United States House of Representatives keep the funding for Public Transportation in place as is. We feel that cutting back on Public Transportation will actually cost tax payers more in the long run due to increased unemployment, less ability to access businesses and make it more difficult for those already unemployed to find a job.

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Why People Are Signing

[josh stephens](#)

4 months ago

because i use metro for school and to take places



[claudia swaney](#)

3 months ago

its very important for everyone and keeps every one working.



[phil schillaci](#)

4 months ago

We have hundreds in the community I live and work in that count on public transportation to get to their jobs. What are

our law makers thinking. Cut the funding, eraise the cost to riders, take away even more of their disposable income.



[nancy mansberger](#)

4 months ago

The use of, and need for, public transportation is INCREASING in my region, as folks attempt to be more frugal with their dwindling resources (our state is in a near-depression). Public transportation makes employment possible for those of us who cannot afford reliable cars, insurance, etc.



[Monica Evans](#)

4 months ago

90% of our consumers use the transit system to get around the city. We just had our hours extended to include nights. This change has helped so many to be able to get back out into the community at times they normally would not be able to. Do not take this away from them.



[Rand Johnson](#)

4 months ago

Someone I employ to work at my home two times every week uses public transportation. Also, I am an advocate for many people in my church who are either looking for work that requires them to have the means to get there and they do not have other means, or they currently have jobs that require them to have it.



[Jon Isley](#)

4 months ago

It would be counterproductive and very shortsighted to reduce spending for public transportation, the only means of transportation for those in our society who are most at risk.



[Zachary Lassiter](#)

4 months ago

I use public transit every day!



[Lynn Nations Johnson](#)

4 months ago

I am signing because 55% of the children, youth, and their families who attend public school in my community live in poverty. They depend on public transportation for their work, to go to necessary appointments, to go to the store, and many of them need it to attend school. We have a sizable population of disabled adults as well as elderly who also depend on public transportation for their work, to get to the doctor, and to purchase basic items such as food and clothing. All of these people are on limited incomes. If anything, we should expand transportation and lower the price they pay to ride. This is NOT the time or the place to reduce transportation and/or increase rates. PLEASE, AT LEAST MAINTAIN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AS IT IS.

---Lynn Nations Johnson



[Kirk Sims](#)

3 months ago

Member of the Disability Network.

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